

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **CONTINUING OUR FOCUS ON NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY**

Over the past several year, crime has dominated much of our attention in Baltimore County. Public safety is the most fundamental responsibility of local government, why is why I regularly attend neighborhood meetings and why I sponsored a Town Hall Meeting in January to address crime.

I am pleased that [the owner of White Marsh Mall has taken steps to secure that shopping center](#), a major employer in northeastern Baltimore County. By adopting a youth escort policy, Brookfield Properties—owner of the mall—repeated the same initiative that has been successful at Towson Town Center.



We are also working to improve and expand our Citizens on Patrol network. [On Sunday, April 24, I will sponsor a community meeting to create a Seven Courts Area Citizens on Patrol.](#) The meeting will be held at the Baltimore County Game and Fish Protective Association at 7 p.m. The neighborhoods along Seven Courts Drive are densely-populated, and a Citizens on

Patrol initiative can improve public safety as it has done in Towson.

As the county budget is considered, I will do my best to ensure we have broader manpower and resources to increase police presence in our neighborhoods.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT COUNTY MEETINGS

If you cannot attend a governmental meeting in person, watch it online. Your County Council records its work sessions and meetings at <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/index.html>. This Web Site also contains information about legislation. Meetings for the Board of Education can be viewed at <http://www.bcps.org/board>.



COUNCILMAN MARKS TO SPONSOR MEETING ON FORGE ROAD WATER PROJECT

Councilman Marks will sponsor a meeting to inform the community about the replacement of the Forge Road water line. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd at the Perry Hall Family Worship Center (5125 East Joppa Road) at 7 p.m.

The one-foot water main has experienced numerous breaks over the past four years. The project will replace that water main that serves many households in Perry Hall's Honeygo community. Paving will be restored according to county standards. A contract will be awarded in July, but notice to proceed will probably not be given until the end of the summer. Engineers will be present at the meeting to answer questions.

VOLUNTEERS CLEAN INDIAN ROCK PARK

Councilman Marks organized a cleanup of Perry Hall's Indian Rock Park on March 15th. Volunteers picked up garbage and painted benches that had been marred by graffiti. The park, located west of Perry Hall High School, celebrated its 10th anniversary in March.



COUNCILMAN MARKS PROVIDES AN UPDATE ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

Since 2010, Councilman Marks has worked to reduce overcrowding and improve schools throughout the Fifth District. All public schools within the Fifth District are now air conditioned; Dumbarton Middle School was renovated; and Stoneleigh and Hampton Elementary Schools have been expanded and improved. Honeygo Elementary School opened in the summer of 2018.

A new elementary school will at Rossville Boulevard in the summer of 2020. This school is expected to relieve overcrowding at Perry Hall and Joppa View Elementary Schools. For details, see the presentation at http://www.bcps.org/construction/Northeast_2/Northeast_Elementary_II_Preliminary_Design_Presentation.pdf.

The county's long-term plan includes a recommended middle school on King Avenue that is expected to relieve overcrowding at Perry Hall Middle School. The school is budgeted to open in 2021. For details, see http://www.bcps.org/construction/Northeast/NortheastArea_V2.pdf.

Councilman Marks is committed to advancing the new Towson High School and a new high school for northeastern Baltimore County. High schools are expensive—at least \$100 million each—and county officials are hopeful that the Maryland General Assembly will increase its support for school construction. Currently, Baltimore County provides two-thirds of school construction costs.

Councilman Marks supports the Build to Learn Act, state legislation which would authorize the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$1.8 billion in revenue bonds beginning in Fiscal Year 2021. This would be used for public school construction projects in the state. Baltimore County could receive as much as 18 percent of the total funding.